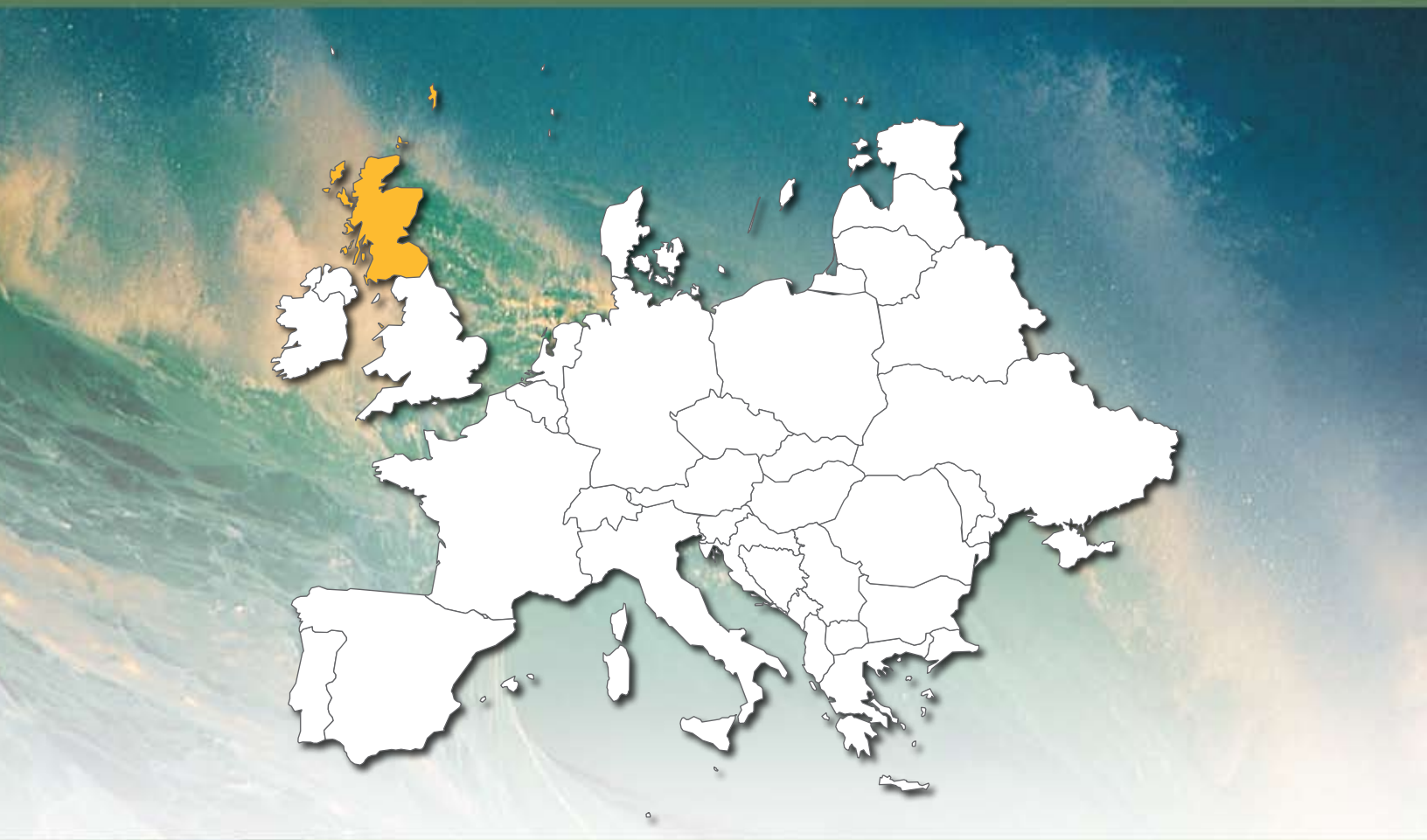


Online Guide to

Educational Systems



Around the World—Scotland



NAFSA

Association of
International Educators

Submitted by Sharalynn Cromer
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About NAFSA

NAFSA: Association of International Educators promotes the exchange of students and scholars to and from the United States. The association sets standards of good practice and provides professional education and training that strengthen institutional programs and services related to international education and exchange. NAFSA provides a forum for discussion of issues and a network for sharing information as it seeks to increase awareness of and support for international education in higher education, in government, and in the community.

In 1948, NAFSA pioneered the concept of providing professional services for postsecondary exchange students. Early efforts to enhance living and learning environments for exchange students have blossomed into today's active association of accomplished professionals whose numbers continue to grow worldwide.

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Instructions for Using the *Online Guide to Educational Systems Around the World*

Susan Whipple, Editor

December 2008

These documents are updates to those in the 1999 publication *A Guide to Educational Systems Around the World* (which was an update to *The Handbook on the Placement of Foreign Graduate Students*, published in 1990 and colloquially known as the "Graduate Handbook.")

It is important to note that these documents do not replace either of the earlier publications, which should be used for credentials issued prior to 1999, the period those publications cover.

Readers familiar with the original version of *A Guide to Educational Systems Around the World* will note that these updates use the same format:

1. Each of these publications provides lists of credentials and other data that can be used both for undergraduate and graduate admissions.
2. "Advice for admissions officers" is intentionally not provided. We have attempted to avoid all types of subjective interpretation, relying instead on objective data. Users of these updates should use the information provided in conjunction with other resources to determine their own placement recommendations and possibility of transfer credit. Questions about credentials can be posted on the Admission and Credential Evaluation discussion forum on the Recruitment, Admissions, and Preparation Knowledge Community Web site:
http://www.nafsa.org/knowledge_community_network.sec/recruitment_admissions/admissions_and_credential/forums.

Please note that these updates should be supplemented by additional written materials that describe complete foreign educational systems, including data on specific institutions, and by professional training in the theory and practice of credential evaluation. Many of these resources are available from NAFSA, either as printed publications or on-line. The need for institution support for budgetary resources and training for undergraduate and graduate admissions personnel remains important, regardless of the increased availability of resources on the Web.

These publications were compiled by many authors using a standardized template and style. Although minor variations among entries do occur, the basic guidelines are explained as follows:

Educational Ladder

1/2 1/2 1/2 1/2 1/2 1/2 1/2 1/2 1/2 1/2
1 - 6 | 7 | 8 | 9 | 10 | 11 | 12 | 13 | 14 | 15 | 16 |
A B B

The year or half-year at which a credential is awarded is the point at which the corresponding credential letter is placed. In the example above, credential A is awarded after the 9th year of education. Note that the corresponding letter is placed directly below the number 9.

All *normal* possibilities of the total number of years of education that a credential might require are indicated on the ladder. This occurs for credential B, in which the credential can be awarded after either 12 or 13 total years of education. An explanation is provided in the description of the credential whenever a letter appears on the ladder more than once. There are a few cases when this multiple-listing style was not used; in these cases, there are explanatory comments.

An arrow (→) is used after a credential letter in cases where no maximum length of study for a particular program is specified, or where the study time is open-ended. For example, a doctor of philosophy degree program may require a minimum of three years of enrollment. The corresponding credential letter with an arrow will appear under the minimum number of total years of education required to earn the Ph.D.

Explanations About Documents

Credentials are divided into two categories: secondary and postsecondary. The decision to include the credential under one or the other category is not a subjective one—a credential is determined to be either secondary or postsecondary according to its designation by the country of origin, regardless of how individual institutions might perceive the level (and recommend transfer credit).

Numerical endnotes, placed directly after the complete list of credentials, are used when a lengthy explanation about a credential is necessary.

Foreign Terms and Words

Foreign terms are used whenever possible, and are translated literally, in most cases. Literal translations are used to avoid subjectivity. We have attempted to be consistent with translations across languages, though readers may notice some differences between countries because of preferences indicated by the submitters. Credential evaluators and admissions personnel should always rely on official foreign language documents, using translations only as guides.

Grading Information

Only the most common grading scales used in each country are listed. Evaluators understand that variations in grading are common and that one should always consult the grading information that may be provided on official transcripts. Rather than making grade equivalency statements, the submitter(s) of the update provided information regarding grading practices within the countries.

SCOTLAND

YEARS OF EDUCATION

1→6		7		8		9		10		11		12		13		14		15		16		17		18		19		20		21
										A	B	C	D	E	F	F	F	F									I	I		
												D		F	G	G	H													
																	H													

CREDENTIALS OR DOCUMENTATION

Secondary

- A Scottish Certificate of Education – Standard Grade (Senior 4)
- B Scottish Certificate of Education – Higher Grade/SCE Highers: represents completion of the twelfth year of secondary education or Senior 5/Higher 1 in Scotland and gives access to many (although not all) higher education programs in the United Kingdom
- C Scottish Certificate of Education – Advanced Higher/SCE Advanced Highers, replaced the Certificate of Sixth Year Studies (CSYS): an optional further year representing completion of Senior 6/Higher 2 and gives access to *all* higher education programs in the United Kingdom, including highly competitive or selective programs that require thirteen years of secondary preparation

Postsecondary

- D Higher National Certificate: vocational qualification earned after two years of full-time study or three years of part-time study; examination externally administered by the Scottish Qualifications Authority (formerly SCOTVEC) admission based on credential A or B
- E Higher National Diploma: vocational qualification earned after at least three years of full-time study after SCE Highers or one year of full-time study after the HNC; examination externally administered by the Scottish Qualifications Authority (formerly SCOTVEC); admission based on credential B, C, or D; may give access to “top up” degree programs of one to two years duration at some universities
- F Bachelor degrees (Bachelor of Arts, Bachelor of Science, Bachelor of Applied Science, Bachelor of Education, Bachelor of Engineering, Bachelor of Law, etc.): overwhelmingly four years in duration following credential B or C with the occasional three-year (English style “Pass”) degree and with further years required for the study of professional fields such as medicine or law
- G Postgraduate Certificates and Diplomas: typically vocational or professional qualifications requiring a minimum of one year of full-time study; some may form the first two terms of a three-term master’s degree; admission typically based on credential F and in some cases, credential E
- H Master degrees¹ (Master of Arts, Master of Science, Master of Philosophy, Master of Business Administration, etc.): academic qualifications requiring a minimum of one year (especially for shorter MBA and MA programs) but often three to four semesters of full-time study/research (especially for MSc and MPhil programs); admission typically based on a four-year bachelor degree or the completion of a Postgraduate program

- I Doctor of Philosophy: terminal academic qualification requiring a minimum of three years of research; admission typically based on credential H and in some cases, credential F

¹ Beware that the ancient Scottish universities (St. Andrews, Glasgow, Aberdeen, and Edinburgh) may award the Master of Arts as the first (undergraduate) degree, similar to the practice of Cambridge and Oxford south of the border. These are not graduate-level qualifications. Check entrance criteria and program duration if there is a question.

GRADING INFORMATION

Secondary

A	75-100	1	Excellent/Distinction
B	65-74	2	Good/Merit
C	50-64	3	Pass/Credit
D/E	45-49		Marginal Pass
F	0-44	4-7	Fail
O			Fail at Higher; Pass at Standard

Postsecondary	<i>Undergraduate</i>	1:1	First class honours
		2:1	Upper Second class honours
		2:2	Lower Second class honours
		3	Third class, Pass
	<i>Postgraduate</i>		Distinction; Merit; Pass; Fail

POSTSECONDARY INSTITUTION RECOGNITION BODY

Since 1997, higher education institutions have been monitored by the Department for Innovation, Universities and Skills and the Quality Assurance Agency (Scotland).

RESOURCES FOR ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

The Educational System of the United Kingdom (an AACRAO Country Guide)

British Qualifications: A complete guide to educational, technical, professional and academic qualifications in Britain, 34th edition

British Council Scotland: <http://www.britishcouncil.org/scotland.htm>

Scottish Qualifications Authority: http://www.sqa.org.uk/sqa/CCC_FirstPage.jsp

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